

CHAPTER 247

Intermission

"Justin, are you alright?"

Justin groaned as his eyes fluttered open to the sight of both Aigis and Maya hovering over him, the latter staring at him with concern, the former... Justin wasn't even sure what Aigis was doing, but he did notice that she had shoved a needle in his shoulder at one point. Goddamn, what did they NOT have built into her. Weapons, medicine; she had it all. But then, she wasn't actually applying medicine, she was just drawing blood due to curiosity sake. He certainly didn't approve though, and had it not been for the flimsy needle in his arm, he would have jumped up almost immediately in panic. He hated needles. Hate, hate, hated. He could just feel it jiggling around in his arm, ready to snap off just the tiniest bit of pressure were applied. And he did NOT want a sharp little syringe flowing through his bloodstream. For all he knew that could go down to his bladder at some point, and that was the last thing he wanted to piss.

"About as fine as I'm going to get with an evil shadow living inside my skull again. Can you, like... not steal my blood without my consent!?" Justin shouted, unable to ignore the fact that he had a syringe stuck in his flesh right now. He didn't know Aigis, and while he'd like to say she was pretty cool, especially being a robot and all, he was not okay with her just taking his blood like that. She didn't move, getting a few last drops of blood before eventually retracting the syringe. That was immediately proceeded by her rubbing her chin and then sticking her finger to wipe some of the blood from Maya's nose. Oh what, because she was bleeding she didn't need a needle? Bullshit... Actually, wait a second. Wasn't Justin bleeding too? He quickly ran his index finger along his bottom lip to find the cut that had been there a moment earlier completely gone. "Hey wait a second, did someone stitch this thing up?" Justin questioned. If Aigis had a blood test kit inside of her, one would assume she had bandages as well. God knows she seemed like she could do everything.

"Uh... No. Actually, now that you mention it..." Maya mused as she stared at his now clean lip. The cut along his stomach was gone as well; and she knew for a fact she had seen something there. She wasn't crazy, even if her nose was broken and her skull felt like a million daggers digging through her brain. She clearly took some damage to her head, but not enough to hallucinate shit. Speaking of which, her head really hurt. Actually all of her hurt, but mostly her head. She sighed before allowing herself to drop to the floor, rubbing her temples as she let herself lay down for a moment. Would it be a crime for her to just take a quick power nap after what she had just gone through?

"While I do possess the training for the treatment of insite injuries, it would appear your wounds had closed on their own." Aigis explained to Justin. In her line of work, people got shot more often than not, so she needed to know how to treat that kind of stuff, you know? She was a little ashamed though to admit she had actually ran out of stitches and had forgotten to restock. Strange, she never forgot. Her programming was supposed to insure she could NEVER forget. There must have been a break in code at some point. Still, it meant she couldn't do much for Maya's nose, nor the cut across her bottom lip. It was pretty deep from the looks of it, but it should heal on its own. Justin groaned as he rolled the tips of his fingers under his forehead. His shadow's doing perhaps? It was frightening to think that the shadow could heal his wounds; if he could work on such a molecular level within his body, the things he could do to Justin... none of them probably pleasant. It was petrifying. This was the kind of fear Justin had tried to get rid of years ago when his shadow had departed from his body; and now it was back. Using him as a tool; but to what end, Justin wasn't sure. What more did he expect to gain from Justin? He didn't fight shadows anymore, Justin's shadow was wasting his time catching a ride in Justin's skull.

"Okay, well that's one more mystery I don't want to explore. And speaking of mysteries, what in god's name are you doing with our blood?" Justin questioned with annoyance. If she was going to stick a needle in his arm while he was a sleep, at the very least she could tell him what she was using it for. She smiled a bit as she analyzed the samples she had managed to collect. It was rather confusing given the contradictions to Justin's claim they were siblings, but interesting none the less.

"I thought it was odd that you and Maya Jefferies don't share a surname if you're related, and the facial differences between you suggest no blood relationship." Aigis smiled slightly, though Justin just crossed his arms with annoyance. She took his blood because she was curious? Because she thought he was bullshitting her? Had he lied to her yet? She could have just fucking asked instead of stealing the twos blood. He didn't want that getting sent to some database in Antarctica or something.

"We're not related by blood. I guess you could say Maya's adopted." Justin shrugged slightly. Adopted by him would technically make her his daughter though, wouldn't it? Kind of creepy to think about it. Still, Aigis didn't seem fazed. Partially because she had suspected so, partially because the blood test had been confirmation of that fact. Whatever it was, she clearly wasn't surprised by the revelation that the people that didn't seem to bare any resemblance to each other were not related. And yet...

"That would be an inaccurate assessment."

"Come again?"

"Without paternal DNA, I cannot say for certain, but there are certain segments of DNA code that are a perfect match between both of you. Nothing substantial, but the possibility of having a common relative ranks in at a 76.74% probability." Maya woke up just for a moment to stare at Aigis with intrigue. She was pretty sure they weren't related at all, but who knows. It certainly got her thinking if maybe they had a cousin or something they both shared. Justin rubbed at his chin slightly, though no matter how hard he thought, he couldn't think of anyone that Maya could be related to. Most of his relatives live in England after all. I mean, on his mother's side of the family, there were a few people from over here, but he was pretty sure Maya and them had been in the same room at one point and she never brought up the connection. So that immediately rolled that out.

"I don't believe we do. Maya, you wouldn't happen to have any relatives in England, would you?" Justin questioned. Justin's American relatives clearly weren't Maya's relatives as well, so it would have to be someone from England. Maya rubbed at her upper lip, accidentally irritating her nose in the process. Shit, she really wished there was a doctor around here or something. She'd have to tough it out for now. For the moment, she'd just like to see if this was coincidence or if there really was some relation.

"Actually, yes. Uncle Pete lives in England, though he used to fly out to visit us sometimes." Maya tapped her chin as she contemplated the matter, a small grin creeping across the corners of her mouth. She liked Uncle Pete; he always had these really goofy, corny jokes. They were the worst jokes Maya had heard in the entirety of her lifespan. But it was the way he laughed at his own joke that made them so worthwhile; it was contagious. Maybe it was just because he was family and you expect that kind of shit from relatives that made it all so bearable. Justin's eyebrow raised slightly with intrigue. Funny. HE had an Uncle Pete in England too.

"No shit? Uh... what's his last name?" Justin questioned. His Uncle Pete didn't use the Tylor family name, so he supposed it was entirely possible Maya wouldn't know about his relation to Justin if it was the same Uncle Pete.

"King."

"Not the same guy then." Justin sighed with just the slightest bit of relief. He would have zero problem being related to Maya legitimately, but something about it seemed... weird to him. Perhaps the thought of having some distant cousin that used to have a raging crush on him just didn't seem quite right to him. I mean, it's not like she was like that NOW, but some things you just can't forget. Justin still felt bad he never noticed to this day. He wasn't sure what he would have done if he had noticed she liked him like that all those years ago. Maybe things would be different. All he knew was Maya was like family to him, related by blood or not; and that was something that would never change between the two. Maya shrugged a bit with

indifference. She wasn't really surprised; it wasn't like Pete was an uncommon name.

"I see... It's quite the coincidence then." Aigis smirked slightly. She would do some more research on the matter, but she didn't have the tools available to her for such investigations at the moment. Perhaps when her mission here was done she would look into the matter. 30% was still a pretty big chunk, but I don't know. She just got this feeling deep in her circuitry. Is that what humans called 'a gut feeling?' Or was it 'instinct?' So many things about being human she still didn't understand. Perhaps that was why she was so interested in this little twisted tapestry of human connections Justin and Maya had weaved. Could it be possible that what should have been near impossible was in fact an actuality? It was a complicated scenario, and the probability mathematics that were running through her machinery was fascinating to say the least. How complicated the simplest of things could be!

"I appreciate what you did for us." Justin interjected, changing the topic. It didn't end the way he wanted it to, but if Aigis hadn't stepped in, it could have ended a lot worse than Justin losing his mind. She smiled a bit. It was always nice to be thanked for something, especially in her line of work where it was somewhat uncommon to be thanked for a job well done. Even when she performed feats no human could be expected to do on their own. She never got a single thanks for that hostage situation on the plane, for all those lives she saved. She didn't need it of course, it was her job, but... I don't know, it was nice. Perhaps that was the human heart growing inside her speaking, longing for the praise and support of the people around her; to be treated as a valuable member of a society she so desperately longed to be part of.

"It was my pleasure to assist." She smiled with glee. Justin in turn smiled back. For a robot, she had one of the most fantastic smiles he had ever seen. It was just so natural, but more importantly, more genuine than any smile he had seen in all his life. A robot that was more human than any of them. It was like he had always hoped would happen someday, but never believed it would come to fruition. And for the record, he was seriously going to rub this in Kurt's face when all of this was over. Lucky bastard didn't even get dragged into this. Look, Justin got that he never really showed up to meetings or anything, and he was kind of a pacifist, but fair is fair. He should have been here kicking the shit out of his friends just like everyone else. Whatever, Justin would just have to hope Aigis would agree to a picture after all this was over or something. She seemed like she would be cool with it. He groaned with a smile on his face as he pushed himself off the ground, dusting off his pants a bit as he rose to his feet. Man these clothes were completely ruined from all the blood and shit; a shame, he really liked these jeans.

"Well you said you had a mission, right? I think it's time we finished this thing and all went home."

“Indeed. We found your sister... now it’s your turn to help me find mine.”